

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEL AV 05479 101705Z

64

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSM-03 IO-13 AID-05 DHA-02 ORM-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /082 W

----- 073717

R 101211Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2605

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 5479

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS

SUBJECT: GOI DECISION ON LAND SETTLEMENT IN THE NEGEV

REF: TEL AVIV A-108

1. ARAB AFFAIRS ADVISER TO THE PRIME MINISTER (TOLEDANO) IN A MEETING WITH AN EMBASSY OFFICER AUGUST 9 SAID THAT THE GOI HAS DECIDED ON THE TERMS OF A LAND SETTLEMENT OFFER TO BE MADE TO THE BEDOUIN TRIBES LIVING IN THE NEGEV. ("LAND SETTLEMENT" IN THIS SENSE IS AN ISRAELI TERM FOR A LEGAL DECISION MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE ON OWNERSHIP OF LAND.) THE GOI WILL OFFER THE 35,000 BEDOUINS, IN CONSIDERATION OF THEIR CLAIMS TO ONE AND ONE-HALF MILLION DUNAMS OF LAND IN THE NEGEV, 150,000 DUNAMS OF LAND THERE (ONE DUNAM EQUALS ONE-FOURTH ACRE) AND 400 MILLION ISRAELI POUNDS. TOLEDANO SAID THAT IF THE BEDOUINS RESIST THE OFFER, THE GOI MIGHT BE FLEXIBLE ON THE AMOUNT OF MONEY OFFERED, BUT NOT ON THE AMOUNT OF LAND. A DELEGATION OF OFFICIALS WILL DISCUSS THE OFFER WITH THE BEDOUINS WITHIN THE NEXT THREE WEEKS.

2. THE PROPOSED OFFER, APPROVED AUGUST 4 AT THE FIRST
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEL AV 05479 101705Z

MEETING OF THE RECENTLY ESTABLISHED MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE

ON ISRAELI-ARAB AFFAIRS (TEL AVIV 3599), WAS THE RESULT OF EIGHT MONTHS OF STUDY BY AN INTER-MINISTERIAL TEAM OF EXPERTS. TOLEDANO SAID THE OFFER WAS A COMPROMISE SUGGESTED BY HIMSELF TO MEET BOTH THE LAND CLAIMS OF THE BEDOUINS AND THE GOI'S LEGAL CLAIM TO THE LAND, WHICH HAD COME FROM THE MANDATE GOVERNMENT. (IN THE TEN INSTANCES WHERE BEDOUINS AND THE GOI HAVE GONE TO COURT TO RESOLVE DISPUTED LAND CLAIMS, THE GOI HAS WON EVERY TIME BECAUSE THE BEDOUINS INVARIABLY LACK WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF TITLE.)

3. TOLEDANO ALSO SAID THAT WITHIN FIVE YEARS, TITLES TO ALL NEGEV LAND WILL BE SETTLED. OF THE EIGHT MILLION DUNAMS BETWEEN BEERSHEVA AND EILAT, THE GOI HAD ALREADY BEEN ABLE TO ESTABLISH CLEAR TITLE TO SIX AND ONE-HALF MILLION DUNAMS WITHOUT CHALLENGE.

4. THE SPOKESMAN FOR THE ISRAEL LANDS ADMINISTRATION (NIR) EARLIER TOLD US THAT AFTER 1948 THE BEDOUINS, WHO WERE THEN SPREAD OUT OVER THE NEGEV AREA, WERE RELOCATED INTO THE BEERSHEVA-ARAD-DIMONA TRIANGLE. NIR SAID THAT EFFORTS ARE NOW UNDERWAY TO SETTLE MOST OF THE BEDOUINS IN SEVEN DEVELOPMENT TOWNS BEING BUILT IN PROXIMITY TO THEIR MAJOR POPULATION CONCENTRATIONS IN THIS TRIANGLE. THIS WILL LEAVE THE REST OF THE NORTHERN NEGEV FREE FOR OTHER DEVELOPMENT (SUCH AS A NEW INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AND ADDITIONAL JEWISH AGRICULTURAL SETTLEMENTS). NIR REPORTED THAT SOME "DESIGN PROBLEMS" IN THE FIRST BEDOUIN TOWN HAD RESULTED IN SUBSEQUENT ADJUSTMENTS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO ACCOMMODATE BEDOUIN CULTURE (E.G., SPACING OF HOUSES), AND NOW THE TRADITIONAL BEDOUINS ARE SETTLING DOWN. A NEWER PROBLEM, SHE SAID, IS THAT BEDOUIN WORKERS ARE MIGRATING TO ISRAEL'S URBAN AREAS, WHERE THEY BUILD SHANTY HUTS.

5. COMMENT: WE WISH TO CORRECT TWO POINTS IN THE FINAL PARAGRAPH OF OUR A-108, WHICH REPORTED THAT "THE GOVERNMENT WISHES TO EXPROPRIATE 15 MILLION DUNAMS" IN THE NEGEV. (FIFTEEN SHOULD READ 1.5 -- ONE AND ONE-HALF.) ALSO, "EXPROPRIATION," ACCORDING TO TOLEDANO, OCCURS ONLY WITH LAND THE TITLE TO WHICH IS ALREADY "SETTLED;" THE TITLE TO THE ONE AND ONE-HALF MILLION DUNAMS IN QUESTION (PARA ONE

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TEL AV 05479 101705Z

ABOVE) IS STILL "UNDER SETTLEMENT."
DUNNIGAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAND SETTLEMENT, BEDOUINS, NEGEV
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TELAV05479
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760308-0054
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760867/aaaacgiw.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 TEL AVIV A-108
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <07 OCT 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOI DECISION ON LAND SETTLEMENT IN THE NEGEV
TAGS: PFOR, SOCI, IS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006